

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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S E C R E T STATE 238642

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, EEC

SUBJECT: JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN TRILATERAL DECLARATION
OF PRINCIPLES

1. UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOJ, JAPANESE AMB YASUKAWA CALLED ON ASST SECY DESIGNATE INGERSOLL AND DEPUTY ASST SECY SNEIDER DECEMBER 3 TO PRESENT GOJ VIEWS ON PARTICIPATION IN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. CALL WAS IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM SECSTATE ON NOV 19 THAT GOJ INFORM HIM OF ITS OFFICIAL ATTITUDE ON THIS SUBJECT PRIOR TO HIS EUROPEAN TRIP, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF APPROACH BY DANISH AMB TOKYO ON BEHALF OF EC SUGGESTING EC/JAPAN DECLARATION THAT WOULD EXCLUDE US.

2. YASUKAWA SAID POSITION OF GOJ IS THAT TRILATERAL
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DECLARATION, PERHAPS ALSO INCLUDING CANADA, IS "DESIRABLE". MOREOVER, WHILE GOJ MUST BE DIPLOMATIC AND CANNOT FLATLY REFUSE EC PROPOSAL FOR BILATERAL EC/JAPAN DECLARATION, GOJ DESIRES MAKE ITS VIEWS CLEAR BEFORE SECSTATE'S UPCOMING

TRIP TO EUROPE. FOR THAT PURPOSE, FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD EXPLAIN JAPANESE POSITION TO EC WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS, PROBABLY THROUGH DANISH AMB TOKYO.

3. ACCORDING YASUKAWA, FOREIGN MINISTRY INTENDS INFORM EC THAT GOJ DESIRES STRENGTHEN EC/JAPAN RELATIONS AND IT WAS

WITH THIS THOUGHT IN MIND THAT PRIME MINISTER TANAKA VISITED EUROPEAN CAPITALS IN SEPTEMBER. GOJ THEREFORE APPRECIATES EC APPROACH AS REPRESENTING DESIRE ON PART OF EC TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH JAPAN. HOWEVER, WITH REGARD DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, GOJ HOLDS BASIC POSITION THAT TRILATERAL INVOLVING JAPAN, EC AND US IS DESIRABLE FROM STANDPOINT OF DEFINING COMMON PRINCIPLES TO GOVERN RELATIONS AMONG MAJOR INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES. GOJ BELIEVES VARIOUS DRAFTS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION CONTAIN MANY ELEMENTS O WHICH ALL THREE MIGHT SUBSCRIBE AND GOJ ACCORDING HOPES EC WILL UNDERSTAND JAPANESE POSITION.

4. YASUKAWA ADDED THAT JAPANESE POSITION BEING CONVEYED TO BOTH US AND EC TO ENSURE BOTH AWARE OF AND ABLE TO REFER TO JAPANESE PREFERENCE FOR TRILATERAL WHEN SUBJECT ARISES DURING SECSTATE'S DISCUSSIONS IN EUROPE.

5. SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION TOUCHED ON WAY IN WHICH MISCONCEPTIONS OF JAPANESE POSITION MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED EUROPEANS TO SUGGEST EC/JAPAN BILATERAL. YASUKAWA RECALLED THAT IN CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER HEATH, PRIME MINISTER TANAKA HAD AGREED HAT SUBSTANTIVE COOPERATION AMONG US, JAPAN AND EC WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FORMULA BY WHICH THIS WAS BROUGHT ABOUT. WHEN HEATH HAD THEN SUGGESTED EC/JAPAN BILATERAL, TANAKA HAD REVERTED TO DISCUSSION OF NEED FOR SUBSTANTIVE COOPERATION AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FORMULA, AND HIS OMISSION OF STATEMENT OF PREFERENCE FOR TRILATERAL MAY HAVE RESULTED IN MISUNDERSTANDING BY HEATH. JAPANESE WOULD TRY TO CORRECT THIS. YASUKAWA ALSO REFERRED TO FACT THAT JAPANESE AMBS IN
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EUROPE HAD EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE FEASIBILITY OF PERSUADING EUROPEANS TO ACCEPT TRILATERAL ARRANGEMENT AND MAY HAVE REFLECTED THEIR DOUBTS TO EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES. YASUKAWA DEPLORED THIS AS UNFORTUNATE EXAMPLE OF LOCALITIES.

6. YASUKAWA EMPHASIZED THAT GOJ HAD NO INTENTION OF INTERRUPTING PROGRESS OF US/EC BILATERAL DECLARATION, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT MUST CONTAIN REFERENCES TO SOME MATTERS OF WHICH JAPAN CANNOT BE PART. ON OTHER HAND, THERE EXTENSIVE AREAS NOT ONLY OF PRINCIPLE BUT ALSO INVOLVING SPECIFICS, SUCH AS TRADE AND MONETARY ARRANGEMENTS, ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, SUPPORT FOR LDC'S, AND

THE LIKE, FROM WHICH IT UNNATURAL TO EXCLUDE JAPAN. HE REITERATED GOJ SUPPORT FOR INCLUSION IN SOME SORT OF TRI-LATERAL ARRANGEMENT.

7. SNEIDER RECALLED THAT US HAD MADE ITS ATTITUDE OF SUPPORT FOR TRILATERAL CLEAR TO EC THROUGH DANISH AMB HERE, MAKING POINT THAT US DISAGREED BOTH WITH SUBSTANCE AND PROCEDURE (I.E., LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH US) OF EC PROPOSAL FOR BILATERAL WITH JAPAN. EC RATIONALE FOR PREFERRING BILATERAL SEEMED VERY THIN. WHEN DANISH AMB HAD ATTEMPTED DEFEND BILATERAL ON GROUNDS EC COULD BE MUCH MORE SPECIFIC WITH JAPANESE IN SUCH ARRANGEMENT THAN IN TRILATERAL, HE ABLE ONLY TO CITE SECURITY AS AREA TO WHICH THIS MIGHT APPLY.

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